

With this feature, light emitted from the light source 1 and light incident to the light guide plate 2 are prevented from leaking from surfaces except for the emitting surface 23 because all surfaces of the light source and the light guide plate except for a surface facing to the opening are covered with the first and second holders (Specification page 13, line 21-page 14, line 3).

Although Okajima et al. discloses front and rear holding members 112 and 113, the front holding member 112 is merely disposed on the light source side of the light guide plate 13. Therefore the front holding member 112 of Okajima et al. does not cover all the surfaces of the light source 1 and the light guide plate 2, nor does it include the opening 61 corresponding to the display area of the LCD panel, as recited in claim 1.

Consequently, Okajima et al. does not disclose teach or suggest all the features recited in claim 1 and, therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Okajima et al.

Claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima et al. as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Horiuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5, 729, 310). The rejection is respectfully traversed because the combination of the Okajima et al. and Horiuchi et al. fails to disclose, teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims.

The Examiner admits that Okajima et al. does not disclose a flexible connecting part connecting the two pieces of the divided holder. However, the Examiner alleges that Horiuchi does disclose a flexible connection (Figs. 5 and 6, parts 3 and 10).

First, claim 4 depends from claim 1 and Okajima et al. is deficient with respect to the features of claim 1 as discussed above. Horiuchi et al. fails to remedy these deficiencies as it is merely cited for its connection feature. Therefore, claim 4 by its dependency from claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Okajima et al. and Horiuchi et al.

Moreover, Horiuchi et al. fails to disclose, teach or suggest the "connecting" feature of claim 4. The connectors disclosed by Horiuchi et al. to which the Examiner refers are barbed ends 3 and recessions 10 disposed on the upper frame 1 and lower frame 2 of the apparatus. Thus the upper and lower frames are fixed to each other by snapping the barbed ends 3 into the recessions 10. There is no flexibility in this type of connection. In fact, this type of connection is necessarily rigid. Therefore, the combination of Okajima et al. and Horiuchi et al. fails to teach or suggest that a holder, which is dividable, includes a flexible connecting part as recited in claim 4.

Claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Nagakubo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,313,891). The rejection is respectfully traversed because the combination of Okajima et al. and Nagakubo et al. fails to disclose teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims.

Nagakubo et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Okajima with respect to claim 1 on which claims 5 and 9 depend. Nagakubo et al. is merely cited for its reflective surface 19b on the inner surface of the housing chamber and its printed dots on the reflector which control light quality. Because of their dependency from claim 1, claims 5 and 9 are patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima et al. as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,704,703). The rejection is respectfully traversed because the combination of Okajima et al. and Yamada et al. fails to disclose, teach or suggest all the features recited in claim 9.

Yamada fails to remedy the deficiencies of Okajima with respect to claim 1 as it is merely recited for its projections 313. Claim 9 depends from claim 1 and is patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,016,175). The rejection is respectfully traversed because the combination of Okajima et al. and Kim fails to disclose, teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims.

Kim fails to remedy the deficiencies of Okajima with respect to claim 1 as it is merely cited for its projection parts 200 and 201. Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and is

patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

None of the prior art discloses, teaches or suggests the above features or advantages.

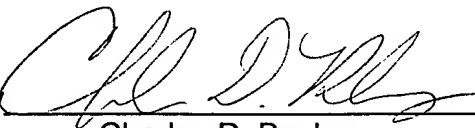
Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-9 and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner feel that further action is required to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension time period. Any fees for such an extension of time, together with any additional fees, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300 making reference to Attorney Docket No. 107336-00000.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED VERSION OF THE TITLE

Display Device Provided with a Holder for Housing the Light Source, the Light Guide Plate and the Non-Light Emitting Display Device [for Illuminating from Behind].